

Recent stories Slideshows Sign up for free stuff, concert and dining info & more!

enter email address

Log In | Help



Blogs



Search OC Weekly



TOP blog STORIES



Riley's Three Things The LA Times Food & Wine Celebration

By Riley Breckenridge



Beat Blvd. Review: I Hate You Just Kidding from Costa Mesa

By Ned Raggett



Last Night reviews FYF Fest @ Los Angeles State Historic Park Over ...

By Brandon Ferguson



interview Steve Aoki: Molded by Conservative OC

By Lilledeshan Bose

Record Review

Record Review: Lee "Scratch" Perry, 'Revelation'

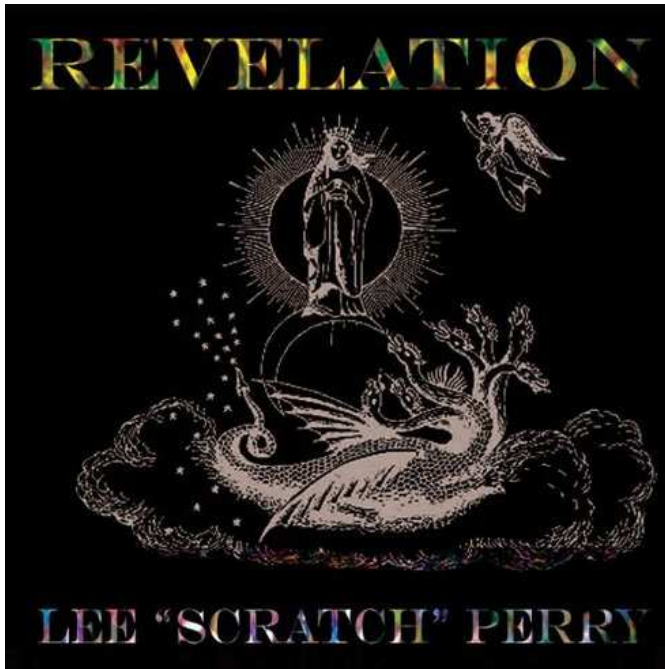
By Nate Jackson, Tue., Aug. 31 2010 @ 2:46PM

Categories: Record Review

0 tweet

Share

Like



The Hype: Some people just don't know when to give up. Luckily, Lee "Scratch" Perry is one of those people. Though most are content to let his career wander into the annals of dub history, Perry has always managed to pop up with something new every year (sometimes twice a year) to keep his sounds fresh in our ears. With the birth of Revelation, Perry's new sonic collection steeped in religious symbolism seems fitting. Especially since his discography is probably about as thick as a Bible by now.

The Judgement: Balancing dub wizardry, sage wisdom and grey-haired eccentricity is a job the Lee "Scratch" Perry does better than most. Of course most aren't in his position--

Most Popular Stories

Viewed Commented Recent

Every Video Game Reference in "Scott Pilgrim vs the World"

Ten Things You Didn't Know About Super Mario Bros.

Paris by Night to Join Jerry Lewis Telethon

Steve Aoki Talks About Pacific Festival: OC and How Growing Up in Conservative OC Turned Him into a Hipster Icon

"Sorry, I'm Dead": 30 Most Memorable Video Game Quotes

More Most Popular...



Sign up for free stuff, news info & more!

enter email

Orange County Classifieds

buy, sell, trade (9,525)	musician (1,422)
rentals (14,699)	jobs (4,285)
personals (9,137)	adult entertainment (32,685)

recording their fifty-second solo album at the ripe old age of 74. Surfacing again with his latest full-length, *Revelation* (released Aug. 10 on Megawave Records), Jamaica's legendary Upsetter christens echo-drenched beats and faith-based rhetoric with the fervor of a hallucinating holy roller. As expected Scratch employs a tangle of tried and true ingredients: galactic laser zaps, hot and sticky reggae beats, a dash of George Clinton and a scraggly helping of Keith Richards. It sounds random, but for the average Perry fan, this formula is right in the man's wheelhouse.

From the outset, everything from the CD cover to track titles like "Psalm," "Holy Angels" and "Eye for an Eye" suggest that Perry's proclivities for drugs and alcohol have been replaced by incense and scripture. By the way, they actually have been. But don't be fooled. Perry's religious overtones are spliced with songs about hard life experiences, vice and psychedelic phantoms. His voice creeks and bends like an old wooden floor (or a 74 year-old man) as he repeats cryptic lyrics that go from hopeful to haunting on songs like "Let There Be Light" and "Money Come Money Go." Much of the album delves into ancient biblical imagery that acts as the album's unifying solvent over taut snare snaps, fuzzy bass lines, searing synth chords and stoned eighth notes.

Aside from relying on sounds constructed during his stint with past groups like the Upsetters, Perry also enlists the help of legendary confidants George Clinton and Keith Richards, both featured on the album. On "Scary Politicians," Clinton lends some gravelly babbling to Perry's song dedicated to the hopelessly corrupt ruling class. Richards--a long time champion of Perry's music--lends some understated rhythm guitar licks to one of the album's quirky hypnotic tracks "Book of Moses."

Though the album is big on religious revelations, it's good to see that reverence is still not Perry's strong suit. Otherwise, "Freaky Michael"--a randomly comic jab about Michael Jackson's life long obsession with erasing his blackness-- might not have made it on the track listing. Making fun of the deceased King of Pop is a daring move, even for a respected maverick like Perry whose knack for shock value has historically been his prime commodity. It also reminds us that even though he may not have too many marbles left upstairs, Perry still has--and will always have--balls.

**The Grade:** A-

**Tags:**

Lee "Scratch" Perry, Megawave Records, Record Review, Revelation

Write Comment Email to Friend Print Article Submit

**Related Content**

- To Say The Least--Odd Michael Jackson Tribute July 1, 2010
- Ride Michael Jackson In Sacramento June 28, 2010
- Interesting Michael Jackson Covers (Post-June 25, 2009) June 25, 2010
- Smucker's Stars on Ice May 20, 2010
- Dead Weather 'Die By the Drop,' Hold Steady Debut Single, MJ Doc Done Bad, Akon Stoned March 23, 2010

**More About:**

- Lee "Scratch" Perry
- Keith Richards
- George Clinton
- Arts, Entertainment, and Media
- Celebrity News

**Write Comment**

Name:

Email:

URL:

Remember personal info?

Comments (you may use HTML tags for style):

**Slideshows**



FYF Fest @ Los Angeles State Historic Park



Cold Cave @ Detroit Bar



Green Day @ Verizon Wireless Amphitheater

[More Slideshows >>](#)

**Tools**

Search Heard Mentality

Follow us on:

Categories...

Archives...



**SHOCKING: 2010 Honda Civic for \$1,732.42**

Breaking News: Is this a Scam? You WON'T believe what we found!

**46" LED TV's for \$98.76?**

Oaks: Online auction site to sell 46" LED TV's for only...



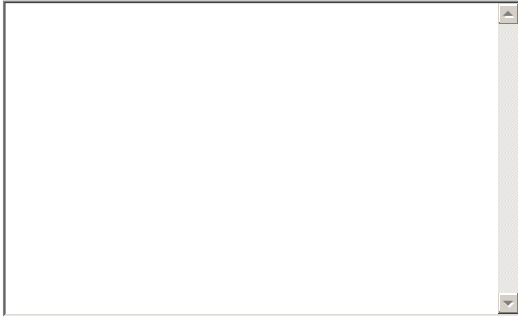
**Firesale! \$649 iPad for \$38.42?**

Special Report: iPads are being auctioned on QuiBids for 80% off!

**Oaks: iPads® for only \$23.19?**

Breaking News: iPads are being auctioned at 95% off retail...





Comments may not show up immediately after submission. Please wait a minute after posting a comment for it to appear.

All reader comments are subject to our Terms of Use. By clicking "Post," you acknowledge that you have reviewed and agree to these Terms.

[Post](#)

## Entertainment

Pizza D'Oro , Orange County, CA,  
Authentic Italian

[View Ad](#) | [View Site](#)

www.propta.com

[View Ad](#) | [View Site](#)

The Alley

[View Ad](#) | [View Site](#)

Mosun Sushi

[View Ad](#) | [View Site](#)

[More >>](#)

SHARE THE WEALTH  
OC WEEKLY COUPONS



## Twitter Feed



**Follow ocweeklymusic on Twitter**

@FYFFest was awesome, @localnatives & @warpaint didn't disappoint. @deadmansbones did <http://bit.ly/alergf> about 19 hours ago

RT @LadyGaga Performing at One of the Yoko Ono's Plastic Ono Band Concerts <http://bit.ly/cZJknA> 3 days ago

Steve Aoki Talks About @PacificFestival: OC and How Growing Up in Conservative O.. <http://bit.ly/d2pk4V> 3 days ago

@Lady Gaga Performing at One of the Yoko Ono's Plastic Ono Band Concerts <http://bit.ly/cZJknA> 3 days ago

@Nationsafire: Thank God it's Labor Day Weekend, Four Days of Shows To Watch! <http://bit.ly/bAZ9qn> 3 days ago

[More Twitter >>](#)

## Links

GET THE POWERFUL SIGNAL YOU NEED TO HELP SAVE LIVES

BUY ONE | GET ONE  
BlackBerry Bold \$14999  
Now Push To Talk Capable\*  
New 2-yr. activation on voice plan with data pak \$29.99 or higher required per phone. [Learn More](#)





[About Us](#) | [Work for OC Weekly](#) | [Esubscribe](#) | [Free Classifieds](#) | [Advertising](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Problem With the Site?](#) | [RSS](#) | [Site Map](#)

©2010 OC Weekly, LP. All rights reserved.